B.55

Carlsruhe Febr. 23.
1879.

Grand Duchess
Louise of Baden

It is a long time, since I have been able to write to you, although thoughts have often wandered near you, and the wish was often there, to hear about your work and about your own dear self, so precious to me.

As to our work, in which you always used to take such kind interest, it has been scarcely interrupted, though not greatly improved, but still we have been going on successfully. Our nurses are about one hundred, we have even more applicants from persons wishing to be trained than formerly.

This is indeed a little progress. But a great many do not pursue some from ill-health, some from want of real love for their work, some from a reluctance to fulfill the rather difficult duties of their task. We could have a greater number of nurses at work, in proportion to the number of those, who have gone through training-skip. Still we must be thankful and hopeful and never take off going on steadily and quietly, thanking God for each blessing and each progress.

We have at present, trusted to our care nine hospitals, in different parts of our

country. I believe the greatest difficulty is still, and will still be for some time —, of not finding enough thoroughly good head nurses, or ladies superintendants for direction of hospitals; — then the regret that so very few persons from better classes of society apply for training-ship.

Last not least, the difficulty of implanting in the heads of our nurses the higher principles, which ought to be the life giving source of their useful activity.

I think that these obstacles

are of a kind, not easily to be removed,
they are old enemies, we know them,
but how to conquer them?
May I hope, to hear one day, whether
you have undertaken in England
some new branch of activity, and
whether your experiences have led to
new points of view. You know, and I
need not repeat, what your dear name and your
kindred example means for me, how it
gives encouragement, how it helps one
in time of difficulty.
May I ask you, to remember me
kindly to Sir H. Vane. I fear your
health is not a good one, may God
grant you strength to continue
a blessing for us all. None of us,
will ever get over the loss of Lizzy
Alice!
I must apologise for this letter,
my eyes are rather weak and
oblige me to recur to dictation.
God bless you!
Ever yours, affectionate
Louise

B.55

Miss Florence Nightingale

Karlsruhe 1 in Baden
Eingeschrieben.
№ 142.

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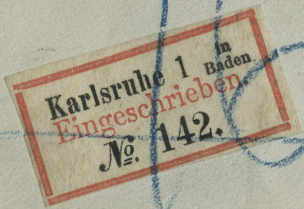

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